

## Project History

Creation of a safe and convenient connection between Seattle Center and the Lower Queen Anne neighborhood, and Seattle's waterfront and Myrtle Edwards Park was recognized as a top priority during neighborhood planning in the late 1990s. The BNSF railroad tracks and high levels of traffic along Elliott Avenue West make it difficult to access park and the waterfront trail connecting north to Interbay and Ballard and south to downtown.



In 2000, Seattle's Pro Parks Levy provided \$700,000 as seed money for development of a pedestrian/bicycle connection. Since that time, SDOT has worked with the community, Seattle Parks Department, BNSF and the Seattle Design Commission to consider alternative designs. In 2006, the City decided to build a bridge across both the BNSF railroad tracks and Elliott Avenue West. This alternative will provide the greatest safety benefit and connectivity for all users.

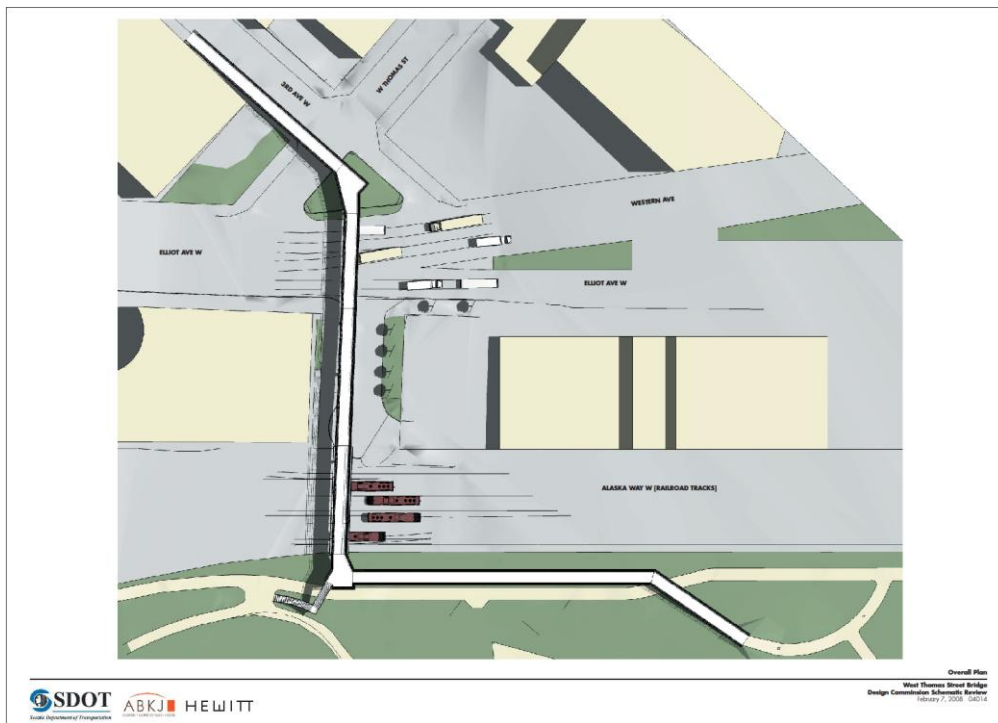
By late 2009, the project had reached 90% design and the total project cost was estimated at \$10 million. A little more than \$6 million in Parks Levy funding and federal and King County grant funding had been secured, leaving a funding gap of about \$4 million. SDOT applied for additional grant funds to fill this gap but was unsuccessful; however, the project was placed on PSRC's contingency list in case additional funds became available.

During adoption of the 2010 budget, the City Council froze further spending on the project until the project could be scaled back within the existing budget or additional funding could be secured. On August 4, 2010 the PSRC advisory committee for King County recommended allocating almost \$4 million of additional grant funding for the project based on newly available funding and the PSRC's adopted contingency list. Once approved by the PSRC Executive Board in September, these funds will complete the full funding package for this project allowing SDOT to complete design and construction.

## Next Steps

Prior to suspending design work, SDOT had made significant progress toward 100% complete plans for construction. The following tasks and milestones will allow SDOT to finalize construction documents to advertise for construction by the end of 2010 and start construction in early 2011:

- Council lifts budget proviso restricting SDOT's spending on the project (August)
- PSRC final approval (September)
- Obtain final environmental permits: ECS/NEPA, SEPA, and Shoreline Permit (in process)
- Federal grant "obligation"
- Finalize art component based on architectural modifications and enhancements.
- Finalize construction access and easements
- Finalize requirements to protect nearby King County sewer lines
- Finalize 100% plans and specification for contract advertisement



## Project Budget

Funding Source	Status	Amount (in millions)
Seattle Parks Levy	Secured	\$3.57
Federal Grants	Secured	\$1.34
King County	Secured	\$0.86
Seattle Real Estate Excise Tax	Secured	\$0.24
<b>2010 Federal Grant</b>	<b>Pending</b>	<b>\$3.96</b>
<b>Total Funding</b>		<b>\$9.97</b>